



EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT AIR'S

the HIT LIST AGENDA

ISSUE #2 of 5
VOLUME TWO

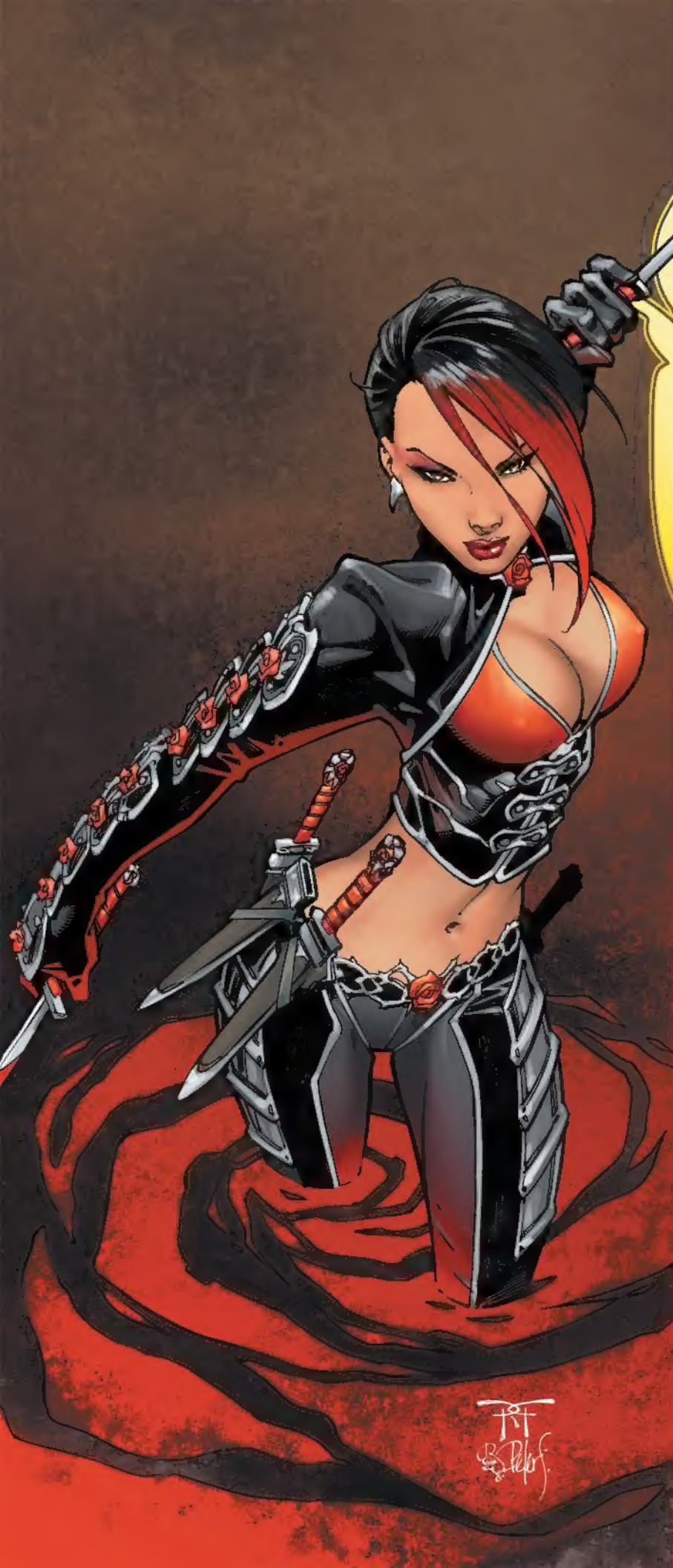
DAVID WÖHL

RYAN ODAGAWA

TEODORO GONZALEZ



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"WELCOME TO PARADISE"

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PART 2 OF 5

The story so far...

Diane Coverdale, with the aid of her inexperienced but capable Executive Assistant Acteia, has quickly schooled herself in the devious adeptness of corporate power play—yet not the fatal consequences that accompany it. With a board of directors conspiring to seize control of her late husband's enterprises, and an unknown assassin attempting to end her life, Coverdale is pushed to the brink of her emotional limits.

However, even amidst such despair, a much greater peril suddenly emerges, blindsiding Acteia, and potentially setting the crosshairs of The Hit List Agenda directly on Coverdale—the return of Executive Assistant Iris...



A: DIRECT EDITION
EDUARDO FRANCISCO
PETER STEIGERWALD



B: DIRECT EDITION
RANDY GREEN
PETER STEIGERWALD

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Beep Beep Beep Beep Beep Beep Beep Beep

11:20 A.M.

Beep Beep

I'M TOLD THE PROCEDURE IS RELATIVELY PAINLESS.

I'M TOLD THE PROCEDURE IS RELATIVELY PAINLESS.

Beep Beep

A SIMPLE INSERTION THREE MILLIMETERS ABOVE THE C-1 VERTEBRA.

115
57 68

A close-up photograph of a digital display, likely a medical monitor, showing two green numerical readouts: '115' on the top right and '60' on the bottom right. The display is part of a larger device with various buttons and indicators visible.

THE FIRST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS ARE KEY, TO ENSURE THERE IS NO REJECTION BY THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM OR ANY AUTOIMMUNE DIFFICULTIES.

Beep Beep

WHAT THE HELL---???

AFTER THAT, RECOVERY IS QUICK.

WHAT THE
HELL--?!!?

NNGGGHH...

[illegible]

Beee



DOUBTLESS, WHEN SHE AWAKENS, SHE WILL BE CONFUSED AND DISORIENTED.



A COMMON REACTION TO A VERY UNCOMMON SITUATION.



AFTER ALL, HER LAST MEMORY WILL BE AN ATTACK FROM A MYSTERIOUS ASSAILANT.

HNNH?

PATPATPATPATPAT--



STILL, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS ARE ANYTHING, IF NOT RESOURCEFUL.

THWAAKK



BLAM

KRRSHKK



WITH NO
BEARINGS...



...OR VISUAL CUES FROM
THE OUTSIDE WORLD...



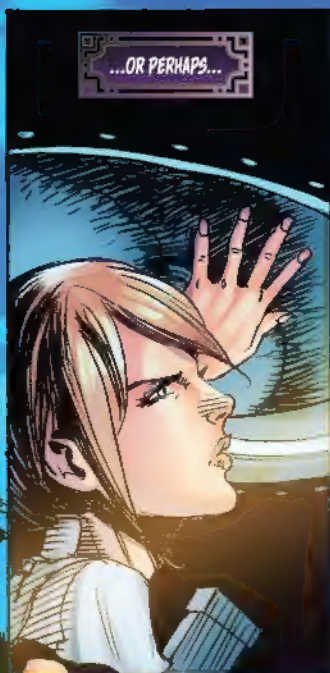
...SHE LIKELY HAS ABSOLUTELY
NO IDEA WHERE SHE IS.



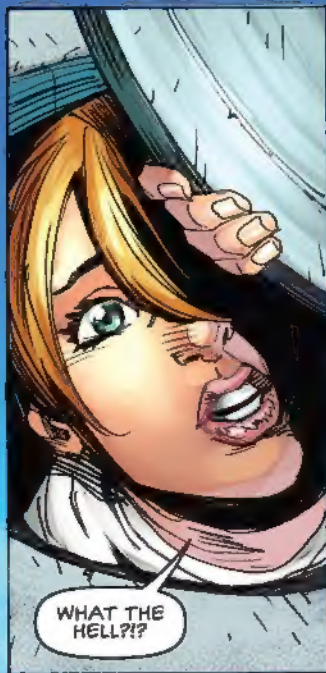
FOR ALL SHE
KNOWS...



...SHE COULD BE IN A GULAG DEEP WITHIN
THE CONFINES OF EASTERN RUSSIA...



...OR PERHAPS...



WHAT THE HELL!?

...SOMEPLACE A
BIT MORE...
EXOTIC.







WHY'D YOU BRING ME HERE?

OUR EMPLOYER TOLD US TO, SILLY.



HE'S BEEN KEEPING AN EYE ON YOU FOR A WHILE NOW.

JUST WAIT UNTIL YOU MEET HIM. HE HAS BIG PLANS FOR YOU!



LOOK, I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS. I NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE!

HONEY, THIS IS THE MALDIVES. PARADISE. HOW COULD YOU EVEN THINK OF LEAVING?



SPEAKING OF WHICH, IT'S TIME FOR A SWIM. CARE TO JOIN US?

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU--

EXCUSE ME, MS. ACTEIA, MISTER VILLONE WELCOMES YOU TO HIS RESIDENCE, AND REQUESTS YOUR PRESENCE AT A LUNCHEON ON THE SOUTH TERRACE.

NOW IF YOU'LL FOLLOW ME, I'LL SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOM.



HERE IS YOUR ROOM, MS. ACTEIA. MISTER VILLONE WANTED YOU CLOSE TO HIM AND THE OTHER ASSISTANTS.



THIS IS YOUR ATTIRE FOR THE DAY. PLEASE SUMMON ME IF IT NEEDS ANY ADJUSTMENTS.

YOU HAVE APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN MINUTES TO PREPARE FOR LUNCH.



IF YOU NEED ANYTHING ELSE, DON'T HESITATE TO ASK.

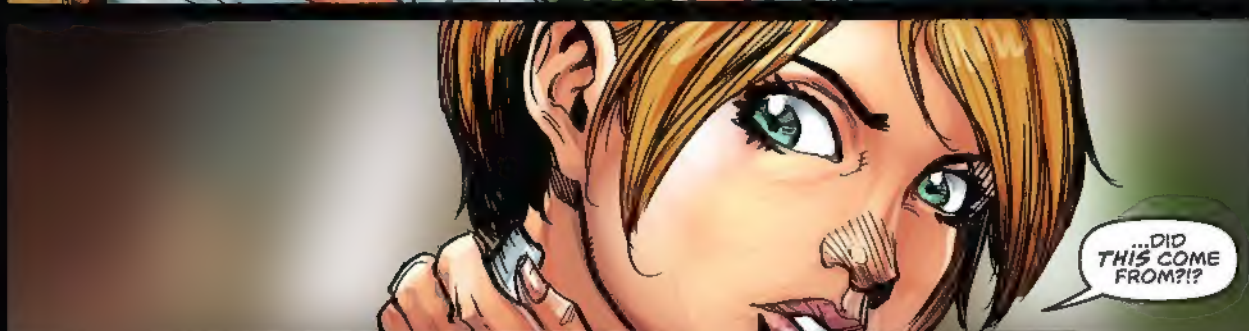
TH-THANK YOU?!!



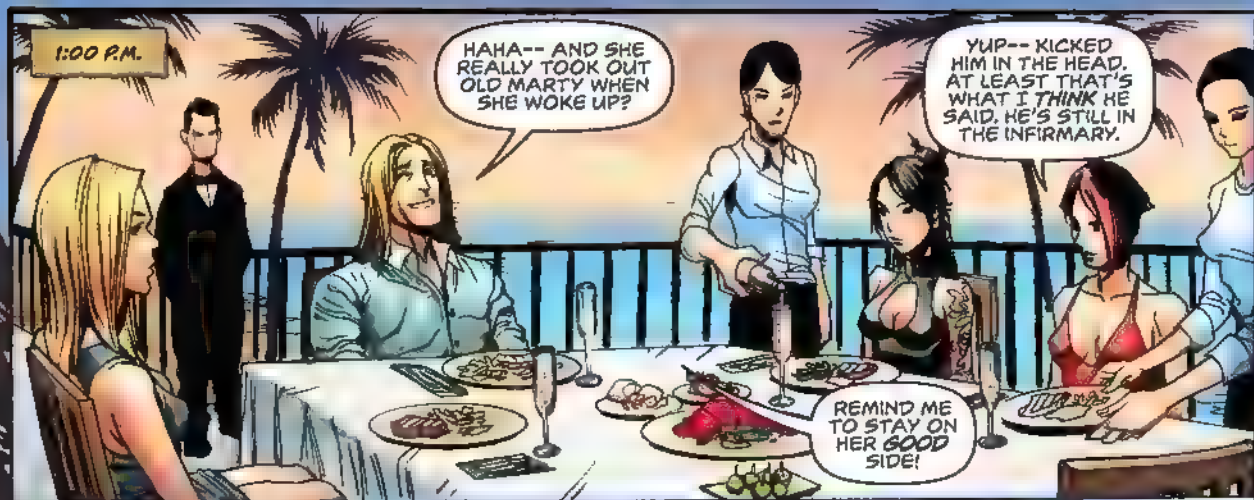
JESUS, ACTEIA. WHAT HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOURSELF INTO?



AND WHERE...



...DID THIS COME FROM?!?



1:00 P.M.

HABA-- AND SHE REALLY TOOK OUT OLD MARTY WHEN SHE WOKE UP?

YUP-- KICKED HIM IN THE HEAD. AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I THINK HE SAID. HE'S STILL IN THE INFIRMARY.

REMAND ME TO STAY ON HER GOOD SIDE!

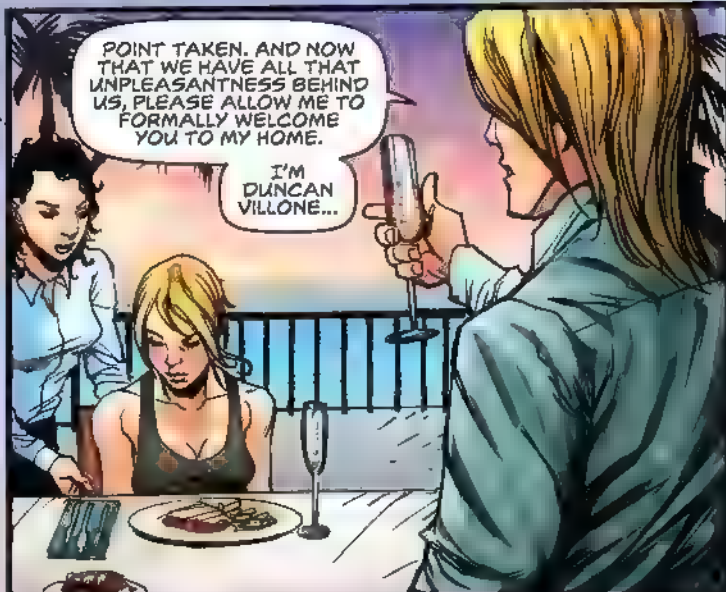
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL!!! WELCOME ACTEIA!

I BELIEVE YOU'VE ALREADY MET IRIS AND ROSE-- AT GUNPOINT, I HEAR!

YES, WELL, PLEASE FORGIVE ME--

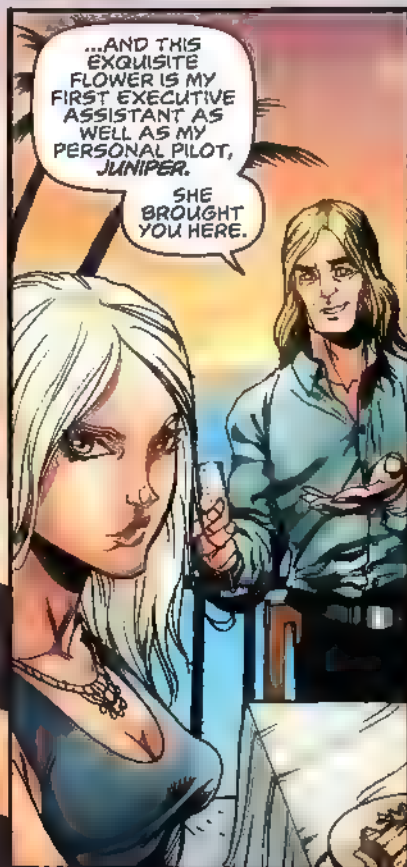
--I DON'T NORMALLY FIND MYSELF KIDNAPPED AND OPERATED UPON AGAINST MY WILL, EITHER.

IT TENDS TO DAMPEN MY MOOD.



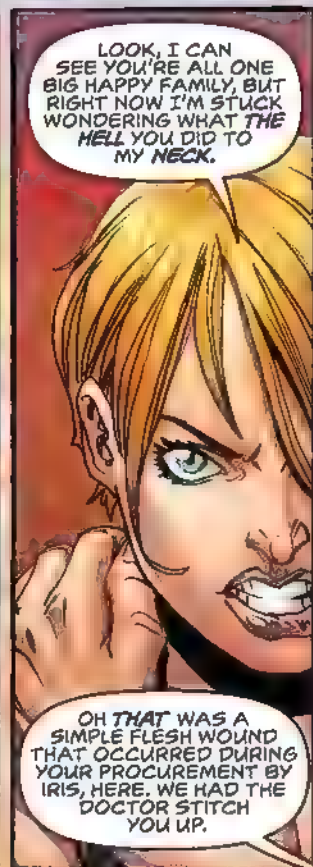
POINT TAKEN. AND NOW THAT WE HAVE ALL THAT UNPLEASANTNESS BEHIND US, PLEASE ALLOW ME TO FORMALLY WELCOME YOU TO MY HOME.

I'M DUNCAN VILLONE...



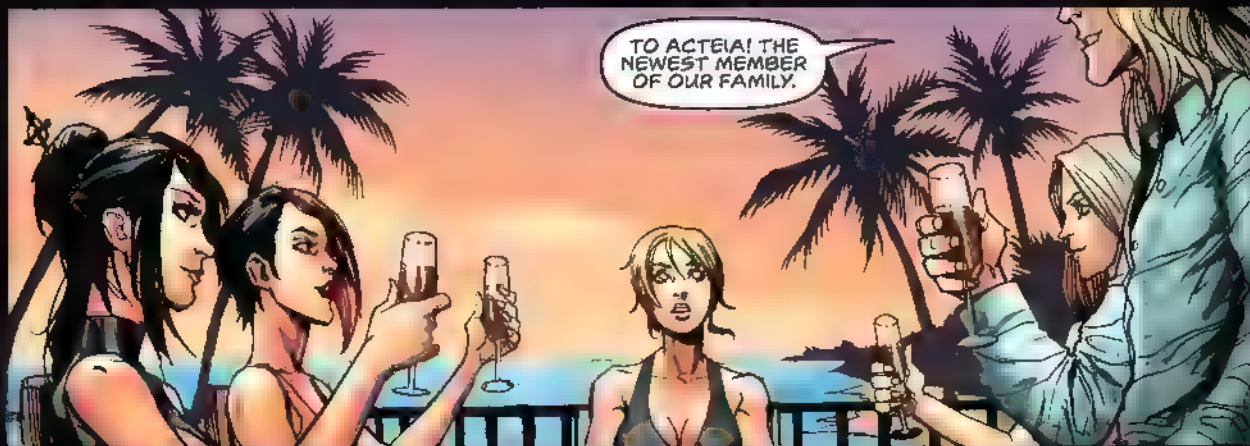
...AND THIS EXQUISITE FLOWER IS MY FIRST EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT AS WELL AS MY PERSONAL PILOT, JUNIPER.

SHE BROUGHT YOU HERE.

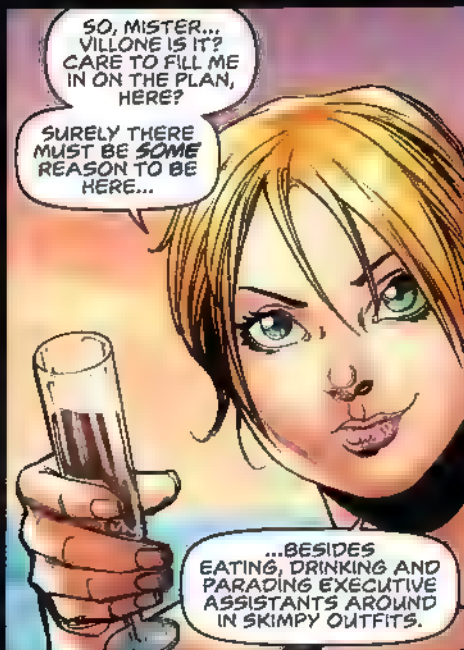


LOOK, I CAN SEE YOU'RE ALL ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY, BUT RIGHT NOW I'M STUCK WONDERING WHAT THE HELL YOU DID TO MY NECK.

OH THAT WAS A SIMPLE FLESH WOUND THAT OCCURRED DURING YOUR PROCUREMENT BY IRIS, HERE. WE HAD THE DOCTOR STITCH YOU UP.



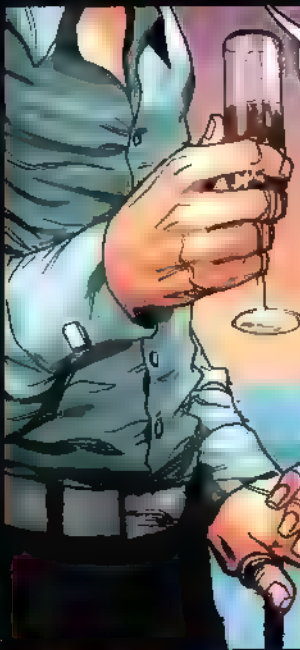
TO ACTEIA! THE
NEWEST MEMBER
OF OUR FAMILY.



SO, MISTER...
VILLONE IS IT?
CARE TO FILL ME
IN ON THE PLAN,
HERE?

SURELY THERE
MUST BE *SOME*
REASON TO BE
HERE...

...BESIDES
EATING, DRINKING AND
PARADING EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANTS AROUND
IN SKIMPY OUTFITS.

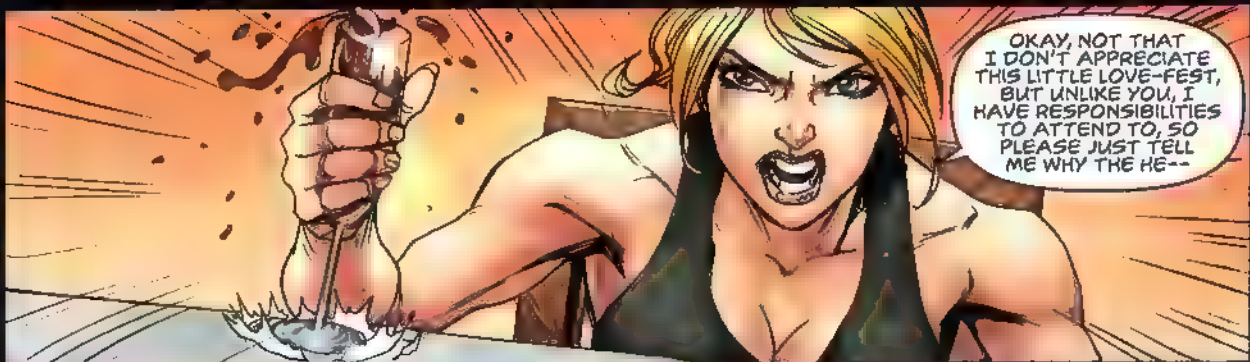


IN DUE
TIME, MY
DEAR.

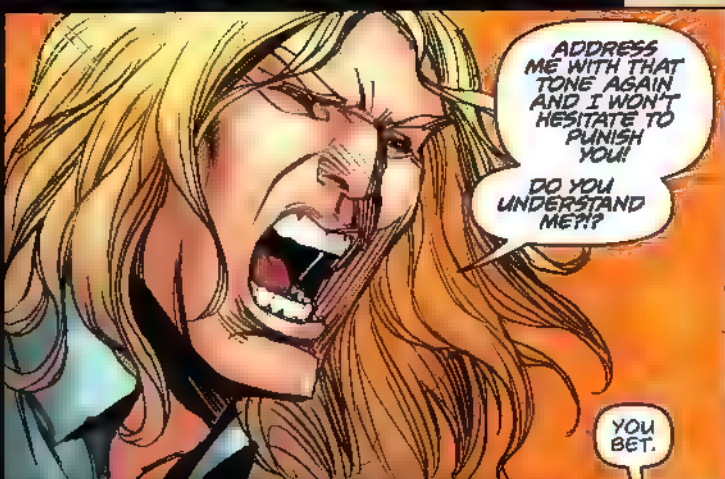
IF I MAY, I CAN HONESTLY
SAY THAT I'VE NEVER BEEN
HAPPIER THAN I AM NOW,
AND I WOULDN'T DREAM
OF LEAVING.



JUST GIVE IT
TIME, ACTEIA.
BEFORE YOU
KNOW IT, YOU'LL
FEEL THE SAME.



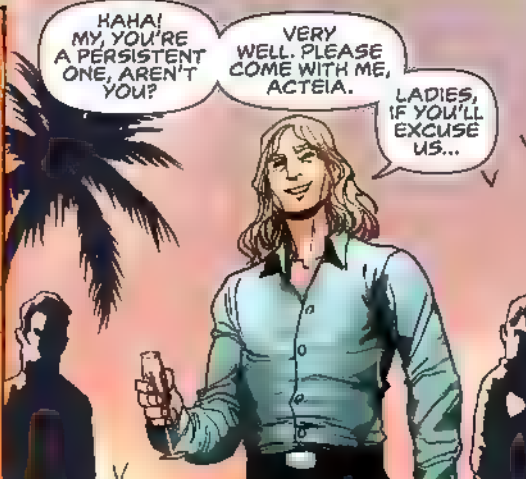
OKAY, NOT THAT
I DON'T APPRECIATE
THIS LITTLE LOVE-FEST,
BUT UNLIKE YOU, I
HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES
TO ATTEND TO, SO
PLEASE JUST TELL
ME WHY THE HE--



ADDRESS
ME WITH THAT
TONE AGAIN
AND I WON'T
HESITATE TO
PUNISH
YOU!

DO YOU
UNDERSTAND
ME??

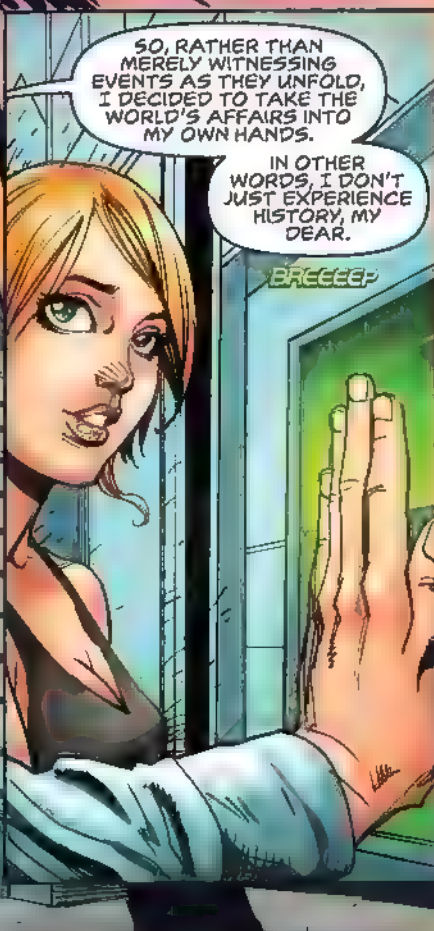
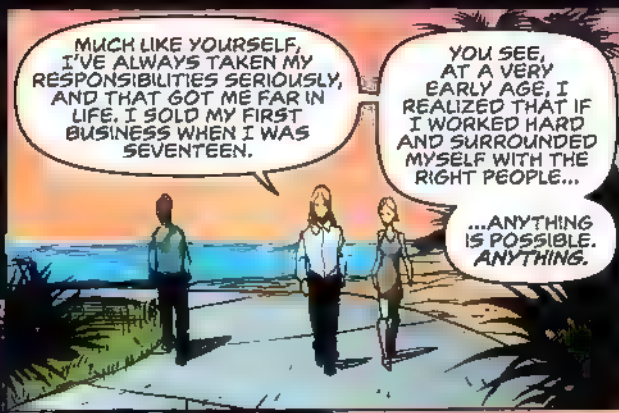
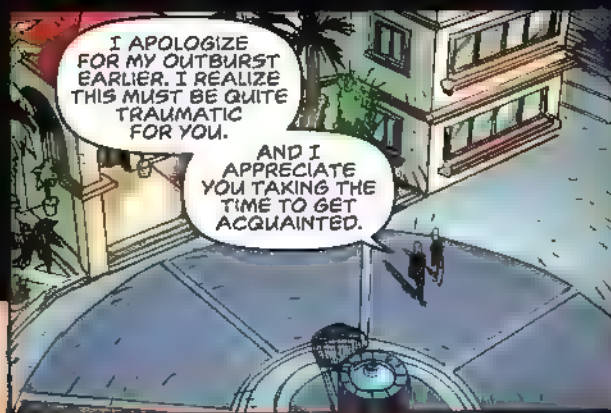
YOU
BET.



HAHA!
MY, YOU'RE
A PERSISTENT
ONE, AREN'T
YOU?

VERY
WELL. PLEASE
COME WITH ME,
ACTEIA.

LADIES,
IF YOU'LL
EXCUSE
US...



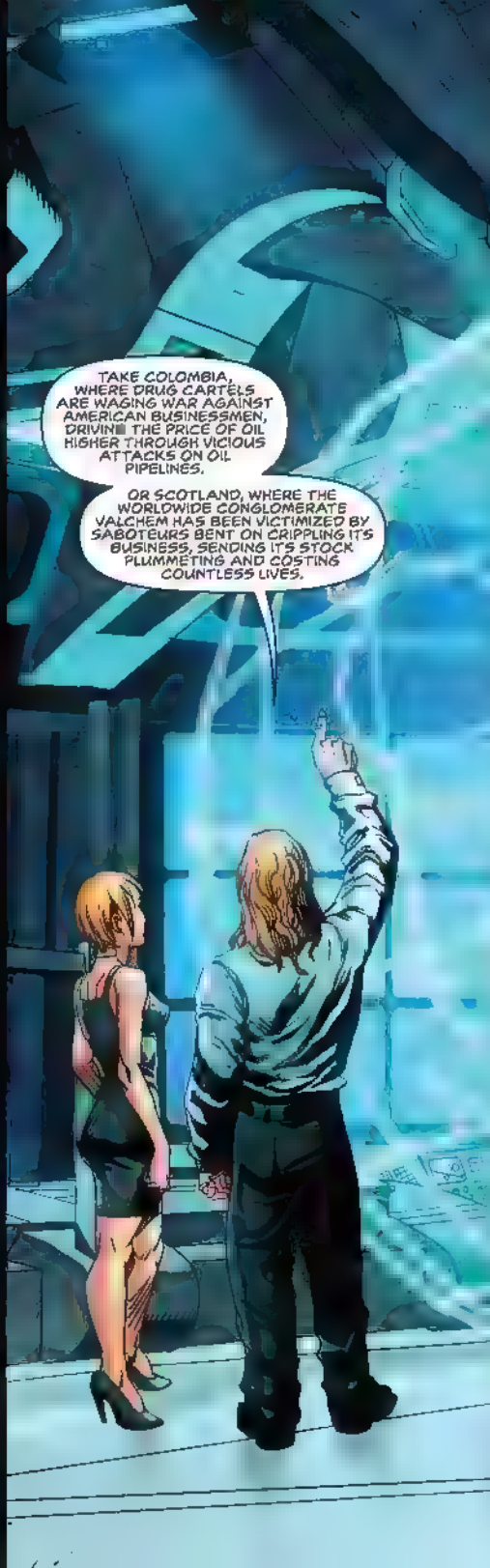


YOU SEE,
THE WORLD IS A
VOLATILE PLACE,
ACTEIA.

I MAKE IT MY
BUSINESS TO KNOW
WHERE CONFLICTS
WILL OCCUR AND
WHY.

TAKE COLOMBIA,
WHERE DRUG CARTELS
ARE WAGING WAR AGAINST
AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN,
DRIVING THE PRICE OF OIL
HIGHER THROUGH VICIOUS
ATTACKS ON OIL
PIPELINES.

OR SCOTLAND, WHERE THE
WORLDWIDE CONGLOMERATE
VALCHEM HAS BEEN VICTIMIZED BY
SABOTEURS BENT ON CRIPPLING ITS
BUSINESS, SENDING ITS STOCK
PLUMMETING AND COSTING
COUNTLESS LIVES.



OR EVEN THE FAR
EAST, WHERE TENSIONS ARE
MOUNTING AGAIN BETWEEN
INDIA AND PAKISTAN, AS EACH
IS ACCUSING THE OTHER OF
CAVORTING WITH KNOWN
TERRORISTS TO HELP ACHIEVE
THEIR ENDS, RISKING
DESTABILIZATION OF THE
WHOLE REGION.

MY ASSOCIATES
AND I HAVE TOO MUCH
AT STAKE TO ALLOW
THEIR FOOLISH RELIGIOUS
DIFFERENCES TO GET
IN THE WAY OF
BUSINESS.

WE PREFER TO
DICTATE THE TERMS
OF THE CONFLICTS, SO
THAT THE END RESULT
IS PROFITABLE FOR
ALL OF US.



I APPRECIATE
THE SOCIAL STUDIES
LESSON, BUT WHAT DOES
THIS ALL HAVE TO DO
WITH ME?

WELL, I UTILIZE THE
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS IN
MY EMPLOY TO BE MY EYES AND
EARS, AND TO HELP... CONTROL
THE SITUATIONS-- TO GUIDE
THEM TO A CONCLUSION
THAT'S BENEFICIAL
TO US.

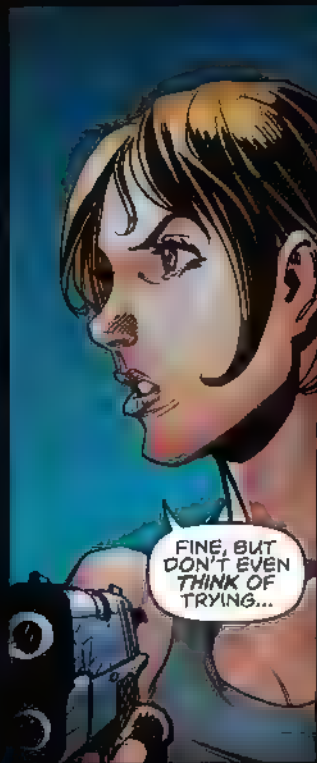
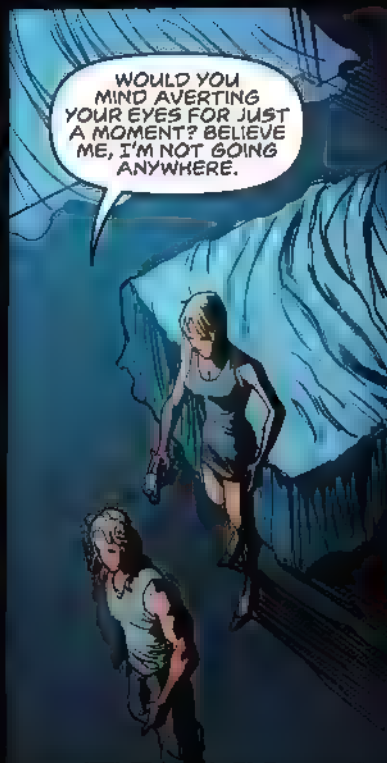
THERE WILL COME
A TIME WHEN YOU WILL
ASSIST ME IN ONE
SUCH ENDEAVOR.

AND IF I
REFUSE?

HAHAHAHAHAHAHA...

12:50 A.M.



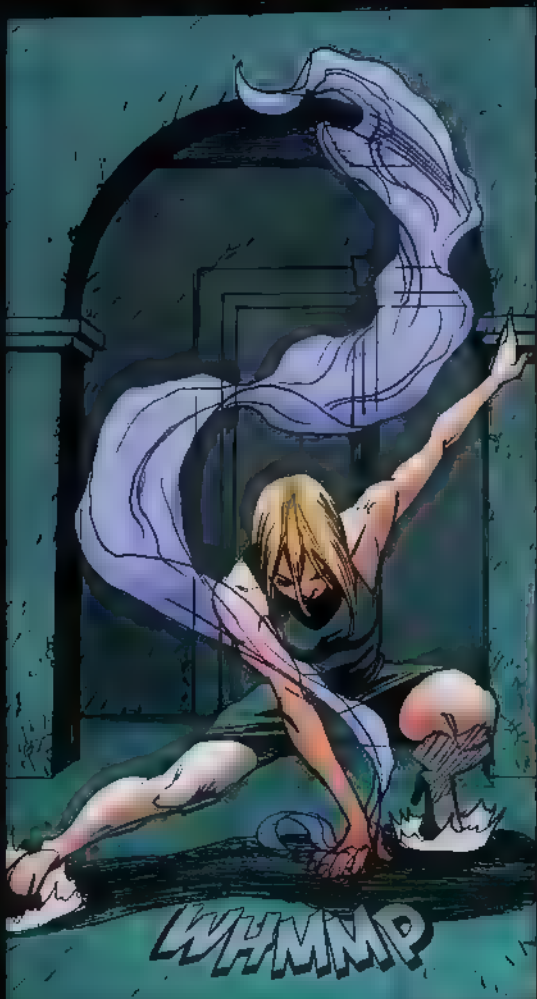




HEY--



GOTCHA...



WHMMP



WONDERFUL...

MISTER VILLONE'S
ORDERS WERE
SIMPLE.

SHOW THIS WOMAN
THE ERROR OF
HER WAYS.



I ADMIT THAT I TAKE MORE
PLEASURE IN THIS THAN I SHOULD.

APPARENTLY ROSE
DOES, AS WELL.

PERHAPS IT WAS HER
DISRESPECTFUL TONE TOWARD
OUR EMPLOYER.

JUST
LET ME
GO!


HER LACK
OF GRATITUDE
AFTER SUCH A
MAGNANIMOUS
OFFER.

—GASP—

THWAPPP

THWIPPP






I MUST ADMIT, THOUGH,
ACTEIA IS A FORMIDABLE
FIGHTER...



...AS I SURMISED DURING
HER SESSIONS IN DUBAI
AND LOS ANGELES.



SHE'S RESOURCEFUL
AND DYNAMIC...



...WITH A
STRONG SURVIVAL
INSTINCT.



YAAAH!



VERY GOOD,
ACTEIA.



BUT NOT
ENOUGH.



FINE. JUST
GET IT OVER
WITH BECAUSE
I'M NEVER
STAYING
HERE.

VERY
WELL...



...YOU'RE
FREE TO GO, AS
PROMISED.



REALLY?



I AM A
MAN OF MY
WORD.

JUNIPER WILL FLY
YOU BACK TO YOUR
EMPLOYER AS SOON
AS YOU'RE READY
TO DEPART.



SO, LADIES, HOW
DID YOUNG ACTEIA
FARE DURING OUR
LITTLE EXERCISE?

DO YOU
THINK SHE'S
READY?



PHYSICALLY YES,
BUT SHE'S QUITE...
WILLFUL, AS YOU
KNOW.

THAT WILL
PASS.



PERFECT
THEN!

LET'S GET
TO WORK,
SHALL WE?

TO BE CONTINUED!
EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT: IRIS #3